Telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh

1596. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting list to have a telephone connection in Andhra Pradesh if so, what are the details, district headquarters-wise; and

(b) by when they are likely to get the telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Details are in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) As per 8th plan objectives, the waiting period for telephone connections is to be reduced to two years in large telephone system and telephone practically on demand in rural/tribal areas, by the end of 8th Plan Period (92—97). The expansion of the exchanges is being planned to meet the above objective accordingly.

Commemorative stamp in honour of Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon

1597. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to release a commemorative stamp in memory of Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, former Chief Minister and builder of modern Punjab;

(b) if so, by when this will be released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Department has received requests for issue of a commemorative postage stamp on Shri Pratap Singh Kairon. The matter has however not yet been cleared by Phillatelic Advisory Committee which advises the Department on issue of Special/Commemorative Stamps.

(b) The date of release can be fixed only after decision is taken to issue the stamp.

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Jandiala Exchange in Punjab

1598. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation dated 19th April, 1993 from Shri Bhagat Ram, Ex-M.P. has been received by the Minister about the inconveniences faced by subscribers of Jandiala (Punjab) area due to chronic malfunctioning of Jandiala Exchange;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to modernise the Jandiala Exchange; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Complaint dated 19.4.1993 has not been received from Shri Bhagat Ram Ex. M.P. regarding Jandiala Exchange.

(b) and (c) It is planned to replace the existing exchange by electronic C-DOT-512 in 1993-94 and to improve STD Services, 12 channel radio system has been planned for installation in 1993-94.

Caretaker appointed for inspection quarter at Moradabad

1599. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to his letter No. 24-48/91-vj dated 3rd August 1992 and state:

(a) whether a Caretaker was appointed for the Inspection Quarter at Moradabad on 15th October, 1990;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Postmaster General, Bareilly stayed in the said inspection quarter from 12th September, 1990 to 16th September, 1990 when there was no caretaker;

(c) if so, with whom the rent of Inspection Quarter was deposited during that period;

(d) whether it is also a fact that most of the officers used the Inspection Quarter as their residence, and also draw the House Rent Allowance, and do not deposited the rent as fixed by the department; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken against officers found guilty of drawing irregular HRA and occupying the inspection quarter illegally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. There is no post of Caretaker sanctioned for Inspection Quarters as Moradabad.

(b) Yes, Sir. The work of looking after the Inspection Quarter was carried out by a contingent paid employee.

(c) Rent of Inspection Quarter for the period was paid to contingent employee who looked after the Inspection quarter.

(d) Some officers stayed in the Inspection Quarters for short spells for periods ranging upto four months and credited rent prescribed for short stays and also drew HRA.

(e) Inadmissible HRA and rent at the prescribed rates have already been recovered from such officers. In addition, it has been decided to warn the officers concerned.

Electronic exchange installed at Capyainganj, Distt. Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

1600. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the electronic Telephone Exchange installed at Capyainganj, Distt. Deoria, Uttar Pradesh is in a very bad condition;

(b) whether Government is also aware that although STD/ISD facilities have been provided from this exchange but they are not available in actual practice; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to ensure that the STD/ISD facilities provided to this exchange at present will start functioning before the end of May 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir, performance of Capyainganj Exchange is satisfactory.

(b) and (c) The STD/ISD to Capyainganj Exchange has now been provided on open wire carrier system which is prone to faults due to adverse weather conditions and thefts etc. The system will be replaced by more reliable media during 8th Five Year Plan.

Vacation of a building under deptt. of Post at Calcutta

1601. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his predecessor had promised an Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha vide his letter No. 67-25/86-PRP (BP-I) dated 30.10.91 that the